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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for inhibiting or reducing a pro-inflammatory response in a diseased cell of the respiratory tract comprising contacting a diseased cell of the respiratory tract with an effective amount of an agent that increases ceramide levels in the cell thereby inhibiting or reducing a pro-inflammatory response in the cell, wherein said agent is fenretinide and further wherein said diseased cell is a cell that is representative of the disease state of cystic fibrosis.

Claims 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (currently amended): A method for inducing an inflammatory response in a cell of the respiratory tract comprising contacting a cell of the respiratory tract with an effective amount of an agent that increases the levels of ceramide in the cell thereby inducing an inflammatory response in the cell, wherein said agent is fenretinide and further wherein said cell of the respiratory tract is a cell that is representative of the disease state of cystic fibrosis.

Claims 4-5 (canceled).